

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on April 5, 2013
Loyola AD-308, 10am

PRESENT: Mr. Andrew Woodall (Chair), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Mr. Jeansil Bruyère, Ms. Joanna Duy (representing Mr. Gerald Beasley), Mr. Sharon Fraenkel, Mr. Veryan Goodship, Mr. Daniel Houde, Mr. Steve Houde (representing Mr. Jacques Lachance), Ms. Nadine Montour, Mr. Sean Nolan, Ms. Irene Petsopoulos, Ms. Katie Sheahan, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Olivia Taddio, Mr. Bradley Tucker.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. Marie-Josée Allard, Dr. Stéphane Brutus, Ms. Melanie Drew, Ms. Hannah Hackney, Mr. Howard Magonet, Mr. Andrew Roberts, Ms. Stephanie Sarik, Dr. Cameron Skinner, Ms. Jenessa Speed, Ms. Lorraine Toscano.

ABSENT: Mr. Kavian Abhari, Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Ms. Sharon Hunter, Mr. Paul Jerajian, Ms. Emily Sheepy, Ms. Alexis Suzuki.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair noted that in the absence of quorum, the agenda could not be approved. The Council agreed to continue with discussion on the agenda items, however acknowledged that no motions could be put forth and voted on.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair recalled that the end of another semester was approaching, with the closing of the university fiscal year, the end of classes and the start of exams. It was a very busy time of year, confirmed by the absence of many members of the Council at the meeting.

Mr. Woodall congratulated the student associations on the conclusion of fair and transparent student elections. Three referendums had passed for the following groups: the Concordia Undergraduate Journal of Art History (CUJAH); the Concordia Greenhouse; and Sustainable Concordia. All of these groups had received funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund. Mr. Andrew Roberts had been elected as the new president of the Concordia Student Union (CSU).

The Chair reported that Campus Compass' "Changing of the Guard", coordinated by the Dean of Students Office, had taken place last month, with a positive number of participants. Discussion surrounded the process of transition between student groups from year to year, from a practical and psychological perspective. On April 16, 2013 Campus Compass would be offering another training session on the transition of student groups, followed by a 5 à 7 cocktail for all incoming and outgoing student leaders to network and socialize.

Ms. Taddio reported that the Love Doesn't Hurt Campaign open forum was a great success, including emotional testimonials and participation from survivors of abuse. Although the campaign was coming to an end, Ms. Taddio hoped that there would be a final event at the Loyola campus.

The Chair announced that the 5 Days for the Homeless campaign had persevered through difficult weather, camping out on the corner of Mackay and de Maisonneuve. Former Montreal Canadien Mr. George Laraque had joined the group for a night and helped to raise funds for the cause.

The Concordia Emergency Medical Team (CEMT) helped coordinated a bone marrow drive that was currently taking place on the mezzanine of the Hall building. The organizers hoped to find a match for a young girl, as well as increase the list of registered potential donors.

The Alternative Spring Break Showcase took place on March 22, 2013 and was a great success. Student participants and leaders presented their experiences to the Concordia community. The Chair said it was an inspiring event and confirmed more great work being done at the university.

Recreation & Athletics was proud to have won a number of medals at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships for wrestling. Ms. Sheahan also announced the start of major renovations at the Ed Meagher Arena. In operation since 1967, the much needed renovations to the arena include a complete replacement of the icing system and boards, making the arena eco-friendly, a new heating system, updating the locker rooms and access to the area. Ms. Sheahan was hopeful that the renovations would bring better opportunity for working with students and the greater community. The funding for the project, a joint investment by Concordia and the Government of Québec, had a narrow window of opportunity. The university worked very hard to ensure that the project would see completion on time.

Ms. Sheahan wished to inform the Council that Recreation & Athletics had invested in small advertisements on the shuttle bus, to promote Le Centre and encourage Concordians to attend the Stingers hockey games. She felt that this was a very successful advertising tool and encouraged others to consider it. The ad campaign was the product of collaboration between several departments at the university.

The Chair announced that Health Services and Advocacy & Support Services had reopened their offices in new locations at the Loyola Campus, in AD-131 and AD-130 respectively. Health Services would have three examination rooms, with the option of a fourth if needed, as space had been an issue in the past. Ms. St-Laurent confirmed that the space under Advocacy & Support Services would be the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities, with a proper examination centre. Mr. Gordon Dionne had been hired in January as the new Manager of the Access Centre, and Ms. St-Laurent was confident that he would be a great addition. The Centre had a new series of workshops planned called "Mind the Gap", and Ms. St-Laurent was sure they would be very beneficial for students.

Mr. Tucker spoke on behalf of Ms. Drew, in her absence, to inform the Council of the upcoming National Collegiate Health Assessment survey that would be launched on April 8, 2013. The survey would provide comparative data for Canadian and American universities. With this survey, Concordia hoped to learn more about the health practices of its student population, in order to adjust the services offered to its needs. Mr. Tucker noted that 5,000 Concordia students would receive the survey via email and he encouraged those students to take the time to complete it.

Mr. Tucker reported that the Birks Student Service Centre and Concordia's Welcome Centre were moving locations temporarily while their respective areas in the LB building were undergoing major renovations. The Birks Student Service Centre hoped that the renovations would allow them to improve their ability to offer more services to students in a more efficient manner, in one location. The Birks Student Service Centre would now be located in MB-2.245 and the Welcome Centre would now be located in EV-1.631. The renovations for both centres are expected to be complete by mid-August 2013.

Mr. Woodall informed the Council that the Inter-Fraternal Council (IFC) coffee bar, located in the Guadagni Lounge (CC fourth floor) at the Loyola Campus, was launching a pilot project to be open for business on weekends, in addition to their usual hours of operation throughout the week. The IFC hoped to provide affordable food to students on campus, when alternatives were lacking.

President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Alan Shepard would be hosting the second of two informal meet and greet events on April 10, 2013 from 8:30-10:30am in the EV Atrium. The Chair encouraged the Council to attend and visit with the President in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The Chair reminded the Council of the CCSL Awards Night on April 11, 2013 at 5pm in the Loyola Chapel, and he hoped to see everyone in attendance at the event.

The deadline for the Concordia University Small Grants Program (CUSGP) was April 16, 2013. The Chair asked the Council members to spread the word and encourage students to consider this avenue for funding their projects.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2013

With the absence of quorum, the minutes from the meeting of March 1, 2013 could not be approved. However, Ms. Sheahan wished to make a correction to the minutes. She pointed out that under item 2: Remarks from the Chair, it had been recorded that Mr. Bower would replace Ms. Sheahan as Director of Recreation & Athletics after her retirement. Ms. Sheahan noted that Mr. Bower recently joined Concordia as the Associate Director of Student Athlete Services and had not been hired as her replacement. The position of Director of Recreation & Athletics would be posted to find a replacement. Ms. Broad agreed that she would make the correction to the minutes, for approval at the May 3, 2013 meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2013

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Sub-Committees

CCSL Special Projects: Guidelines Review

The Chair reminded the Council that the sub-committee had set out to simplify and improve the guidelines and application process for the CCSL Special Projects. The goal was to make the process more transparent for students and to improve the quality of applications received. He noted that the current and the updated guidelines had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. Several members of the Council asked that the document be resent with the changes tracked so that it would be less difficult to see where revisions had been made. Mr. Woodall agreed that this would be done prior to the May 3, 2013 meeting.

CCSL Awards: Update on Review Meeting

Mr. Woodall spoke on behalf of Mr. Magonet, Chair of the CCSL Awards sub-committee, as he had sent his regrets for the meeting. Mr. Woodall confirmed that the sub-committee had met on March 5, 2013 to review 23 applications for the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards. The recipients were as follows: five undergraduate students; one graduate student; two staff members; and one faculty member. A total of nine CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards would be given out, as well as seven Concordia Volunteer Recognition Awards, which were coordinated through the LIVE Centre. Mr. Woodall reminded the Council that the awards night would be held on April 11, 2013 at 5pm in the Loyola Chapel. The shuttle bus would not be asking for identification that evening to help encourage people to attend and Parking Services had graciously waved the parking fee for the P5 parking lot at Loyola. As the staff representative on the sub-committee, Ms. Montour noted that there were some very impressive applications and that difficult decisions had to be made to find the most deserving nominations. She added that the review meeting had gone well and that it was an enjoyable experience to take part in. The Council discussed whether they should be satisfied with receiving 23 applications, or if they should strive to increase the number of nominations submitted. Ms. Montour said that the sub-committee had considered quality over quantity when deciding on how many awards to distribute. It was agreed that further discussion at CCSL would be beneficial to determine if the Council should seek more nominations, and if so, how would they go about doing so.

5.2 Ad-Hoc Committee to Review CCSL Mandate

The Chair confirmed that he was working on solidifying a proposal for a research project, including the ideas that came from the ad-hoc committee meetings. He planned to send the proposal to the ad-hoc committee for their approval, following which the proposal would be presented to the Council. The Chair anticipated that the proposal would be ready for the May 3, 2013 meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sheahan announced that, weather permitting, the Stingers Dome would be taken down at the end of April. The department planned to film the take down and to use the video as a promotional tool for the venue. The video could be posted on YouTube and Facebook to reach a wide number of people.

Mr. Bruyère reported that the Centre 2110 had approached them with the idea of starting a Consent Campaign. The goal would be to certify students to provide valuable information at gatherings, such as orientation, on the meaning of consent and creating a positive environment.

The Chair recalled Ms. Sheahan's imminent retirement, adding that while the Council was incredibly happy for her, it would be a huge loss for the university.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 3, 2013 at SGW H-769 at 10am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

In the absence of quorum, the Council members agreed to terminate the meeting without an approved motion.